

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

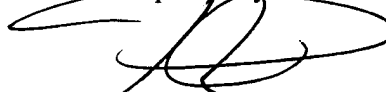
In this Preliminary Amendment, claims 24-28 are canceled, and claims 1-23 are pending and are subject to examination. This Preliminary Amendment adds continuity data to the first paragraph of the application. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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